

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Claim 1 (amended): An apparatus for temperature conditioning a seat that is exposed to an environment, said apparatus comprising:

a first heat exchanger coupled to a seat, said first heat exchanger forming a liquid tight bladder through which a first heat transfer fluid is circulated;

a second heat exchanger in fluid communication with said first heat exchanger, said second heat exchanger including an air trap chamber;

a first pump for forcing said first heat transfer fluid between said first heat exchanger and said second heat exchanger;

a thermoelectric device having a first surface and a second surface, said first surface thermally coupled to said second heat exchanger;

a third heat exchanger thermally coupled to said second surface of said thermoelectric device;

a radiator in fluid communication with said third heat exchanger;

a second pump for forcing a second heat transfer fluid between said third heat exchanger and said radiator; and

a controller providing power to said thermoelectric device, said controller selectively heating one of said first and second surfaces, said controller selectively cooling the other of said first and second surfaces, said controller including a ramp circuit that applies power to said thermoelectric device over a specified period of time.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said second heat exchanger includes an air chamber.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a means for forming an air chamber in said second heat exchanger.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a temperature selector, said temperature selector in communication with said controller, said controller varying a current flowing through said thermoelectric device.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a switch for reversing a polarity of a direct current voltage applied to said thermoelectric device.

Claim 6 (amended): An apparatus for temperature conditioning a seat that is exposed to an environment, said apparatus comprising:

a first heat exchanger coupled to a seat;

a second heat exchanger in fluid communication with said first heat exchanger,
said second heat exchanger including an air trap chamber;

a first pump for forcing a first heat transfer fluid between said first heat exchanger and said second heat exchanger;

a thermoelectric device having a first surface and a second surface, said first surface thermally coupled to said second heat exchanger;

a third heat exchanger thermally coupled to said second surface of said thermoelectric device; and

a controller providing power to said thermoelectric device, said controller selectively heating one of said first and second surfaces, said controller selectively cooling the other of said first and second surfaces, said controller including a ramp circuit that applies power to said thermoelectric device over a specified period of time.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said second heat exchanger includes an air chamber.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 further including a means for forming an air chamber in said second heat exchanger.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 further including a temperature selector, said temperature selector in communication with said controller, said controller varying a current flowing through said thermoelectric device.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 further including a switch for reversing a polarity of a direct current voltage applied to said thermoelectric device.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 further including a radiator in fluid communication with said third heat exchanger and a second pump for forcing a second heat transfer fluid between said third heat exchanger and said radiator.

Claim 12 (cancelled):

Claim 13 (cancelled):

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said first heat exchanger is a bladder with channels for directing said first heat transfer fluid through said bladder.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of Claim 6 further including a safety cutout device for stopping a direct current voltage applied to said thermoelectric device, said safety cutout device sensing a temperature and operating when said sensed temperature exceeds a selected temperature.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of Claim 15 further including a thermistor for sensing said temperature.

Claim 17 (original): An apparatus for temperature conditioning a seat that is exposed to an environment, said apparatus comprising:

a means for changing a temperature of a liquid;

a means for transferring said liquid to a heat exchanger coupled to a seat; and

a means for conducting thermal energy between said liquid and said seat.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17 further including a means for controlling a temperature of said liquid.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of Claim 17 further including a means for transferring thermal energy between said means for changing said temperature and the environment.

Claim 20-23 (cancelled):

Claim 24 (new): An apparatus for temperature conditioning a seat that is exposed to an environment, said apparatus comprising:

a first heat exchanger coupled to a seat;

a second heat exchanger in fluid communication with said first heat exchanger;

a first pump for forcing a first heat transfer fluid between said first heat exchanger and said second heat exchanger;

a thermoelectric device having a first surface and a second surface, said first surface thermally coupled to said second heat exchanger;

a third heat exchanger thermally coupled to said second surface of said thermoelectric device; and

a controller providing power to said thermoelectric device, said controller selectively heating one of said first and second surfaces, said controller selectively cooling the other of said first and second surfaces, said controller including a ramp circuit that applies power to said thermoelectric device over a specified period of time.

Claim 25 (new): The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein said second heat exchanger includes an air trap chamber.